

which modification, one or more of the following additional modifications are optionally made:

(i) substitution of Ile<sub>96</sub> by a hydrophobic amino acid residue;

(ii) substitution of His<sub>95</sub> by D-His or an N-alkyl derivative of His or D-His, or by Asp, Glu, Ser, Thr, Phe, or Tyr, an N-alkyl derivative of Asp, Glu, Ser, Thr, Phe or Tyr, or a D-form of Asp, Glu, Ser, Thr, Phe or Tyr;

(iii) substitution of Ala<sub>92</sub> by a hydrophobic amino acid residue;

(iv) substitution of Val<sub>91</sub> by Ala or Gly;

(v) substitution of Thr<sub>90</sub> by Asn, Asp, Gln, Glu, Ala, Val or Pro; and

(vi) substitution of Val<sub>89</sub> by a hydrophobic amino acid residue;

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(C) a peptide obtained by elongation of (A) or (B) at the N- and/or C-terminal, but not including an entire protein; or

(D) an amide of the C-terminal of (A), (B), or (C), and/or an N-acyl derivative of (A), (B), or (C).

15 (New). An isolated peptide capable of inhibiting *in vitro* the enzymatic activity of human Leukocyte Elastase (hLE) and/or of human Cathepsin G (hCG), said peptide being

(A) a core peptide identical to positions 89-96 of the sequence of human C-reactive protein (CRP) of the formula:

Val<sub>89</sub>-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-His-Ile<sub>96</sub> (SEQ ID NO:3);

(B) a modification of (A) in which His<sub>95</sub> is substituted by Asp, Glu, Ser, Phe or Tyr, an N-alkyl derivative of His, Thr, Asp, Glu, Ser, Phe or Tyr, or a D-form of His, Thr, Asp, Glu, Ser, Phe or Tyr, and, in which modification, one or more of the following additional modifications are optionally made:

(i) substitution of Ile<sub>96</sub> by a hydrophobic amino acid residue;

(ii) substitution of Val<sub>94</sub> by Ala, His or Phe, or a D-form of Val, Ala, His or Phe;

(iii) substitution of Ala<sub>92</sub> by a hydrophobic amino acid residue;

(iv) substitution of Val<sub>91</sub> by Ala or Gly;

(v) substitution of Thr<sub>90</sub> by Asn, Asp, Gln, Glu, Ala, Val or Pro; and

(vi) substitution of Val<sub>89</sub> by a hydrophobic amino acid residue;

(C) a peptide obtained by elongation of (A) or (B) at the N- and/or C-terminal, but not including an entire protein; or

(D) an amide of the C-terminal of (A), (B), or (C), and/or an N-acyl derivative of (A), (B), or (C).

Please amend claims 2-9, and 12-13 as follows:

2 (Amended). A peptide according to claim 14, wherein the hydrophobic amino acid residue is selected from the

group of residues consisting of Leu, Ile, Val, Phe, Tyr, Nle and Nva.

*Sub E2*  
3 (Amended). A peptide according to claim 14(C), wherein the peptide is elongated by additional amino acid residues at the N-terminal.

4 (Amended). A peptide according to claim 3, wherein the additional amino acid residues constitute sequences of the human CRP.

*Sub E3*  
5 (Amended). An N-acyl peptide according to claim 14(D), wherein acyl is a radical R-X-CO-, wherein R is substituted or unsubstituted hydrocarbyl and X is a covalent bond, O, NH, or NHCO.

*D2*  
6 (Amended). An N-acyl peptide according to claim 5, wherein R is optionally substituted alkanoyl or aroyl.

7 (Amended). An N-acyl peptide according to claim 6, wherein the acyl radical is selected from octanoyl, monomethoxysuccinyl, carbobenzoxy (benzyl-O-CO-), acetylaminocaproyl, Fmoc (fluorenylmethoxycarbonyl), naphthyl-NH-CO- and adamantyl-NH-CO.

*Sub E4*  
8 (Twice Amended). A peptide according to claim 14, selected from the group of sequences consisting of:

Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-His-Ile (residues 89-96 of SEQ ID NO:3)

*D3*  
Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-(D)His-Ile

Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-(D)Val-His-Ile

Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-(D)Val-(D)His-Ile

Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-Ser-Ile (SEQ ID NO:8)

Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-Phe-Ile (SEQ ID NO:9)  
Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-His-Ile-NH<sub>2</sub> (SEQ ID NO:13)  
Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-His-Ile-Pro-NH<sub>2</sub> (SEQ ID  
NO:10)  
Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Phe-His-Ile-Pro-NH<sub>2</sub> (SEQ ID  
NO:11)  
Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-His-Ile-Pro-Pro-NH<sub>2</sub> (SEQ ID  
NO:12)  
MeOSuc-Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-His-Ile (SEQ ID NO:13)  
MeOSuc-Phe-Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-His-Ile (SEQ ID  
NO:14)  
Octanoyl-Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-His-Ile (SEQ ID  
NO:13)  
Acetylaminocaproyl-Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-His-Ile  
(SEQ ID NO:13)  
AdamantylNH-CO-Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-His-Ile (SEQ  
ID NO:13)  
 $\alpha$ -Naphthyl-NH-CO-Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-His-Ile (SEQ  
ID NO:13)  
CBz-Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-His-Ile (SEQ ID NO:13)  
CBz-Phe-Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-His-Ile (SEQ ID  
NO:14)  
Fmoc-Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-His-Ile (SEQ ID NO:13)  
wherein CBz is carbobenzoxy, MeOSuc is  
monomethoxysuccinyl and Fmoc is 9-fluorenylmethoxycarbonyl.

~~D3 Sub E4~~ 9 (Amended). A pharmaceutical composition comprising a CRP-derived peptide according to claim 14, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

~~D4 Sub E5~~ 12 (Amended). A method for the treatment of a chronic inflammatory condition which comprises administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of a peptide according to claim 14.

~~D4~~ 13 (Amended). A method according to claim 12, wherein the chronic inflammatory condition is rheumatoid arthritis, pulmonary emphysema or cystic fibrosis.

Please add new claims 16-24 as follows:

~~D5~~ 16 (New). A peptide according to claim 15, wherein the hydrophobic amino acid residue is selected from the group of residues consisting of Leu, Ile, Val, Phe, Tyr, Nle and Nva.

17 (New). A peptide according to claim 15(C), wherein the peptide is elongated by additional amino acid residues at the N-terminal.

18 (New). A peptide according to claim 17, wherein the additional amino acid residues constitute sequences of the human CRP.

19 (New). An N-acyl peptide according to claim 15(D), wherein acyl is a radical R-X-CO-, wherein R is